

AN ANSWER TO DON SMITH'S "LISTEN-IN" LETTER.

SPECIAL NEWS LETTER
(Being paid for by myself).

27 Green Street,
Guelph, Ont. Canada,
December 4th, 1945.

TO ALL CHS MEMBERS:-

You will have received Don's "HEY RUBE" by this time. No doubt it came as a complete surprise to you. To me it was not a surprise-- this is something that I had expected all through this campaign, and let me say that his letter to "you" is very mild indeed to any that have been written to me. I have them all on file here - and they will make interesting reading at a CHS Convention if necessary to produce them. I consider Don's letter nothing short of scandalous - and I am only pleased that it arrived when it did, which enables me to write this reply and enclose it with the Christmas issue of the Bandwagon. I am only sorry that it has been necessary - as one of my final acts as President to write such a letter to you - but you would look for it, as Don has made certain accusations about the present administration that must be answered. Anything missed in this short letter will be covered in my final News Letter at end of the year.

Let me say here - and I definitely mean it, that anything said in my previous news letter or in letters to Don Smith are still on the record. Nothing is taken back - and my only regret is that Don at all times during the past many months has seemingly taken it on himself to write me "as the Head of Division No. 1." I take strenuous objection to this for his attitude definitely is opposite to opinions received from members in his own Division - so how could he be acting for them? Tell me that. I have no bone to pick with any members in Div. 1 (except Don Smith) and I want my good friends to know it.

Don seemingly is taking it out on me now for having appointed Bette Leonard - who has worked hard for CHS as you know, as Publicity Director. After this appointment had been made, after Don resigned of his own accord - he had done so on two occasions before and at my request to him he remained in office -- Don's letter differing with me was the only one so received - but on the other hand I received no less than dozens of letters commanding my action, and these came not from any one Division of CHS - but FROM THEM ALL.

You all know how hard it is for any Club or Society to get regular news in the Billboard or any other publications owing to the strenuous times we have come through - shortage of paper etc., and also for the main reason that members still continue to write direct to the Billboard and have their names in the Under the Marquee instead of sending it to our Publicity Director. Naturally they will not publish two items about the same thing, and this accounts for the missing of our column. More about this in another news letter.

I am very sorry that Don has seen fit to condemn the honest efforts of Mrs. Leonard - and trust you will ask him to apologize for this. Just as I am doing now in asking him to produce "over my signature" any letter in which I ever smeared his name. As my thousands of letters to and from fans will show - I am not given to that sort of practice. Don's letters to me during the past two years would be a revelation to many if you could only see them.

As for any accounting of Auction funds - it would seem to me that Don has again brought up a matter - long settled and commented on by many members at the time - when I gave full explanation in my news letter of some months ago. Figure it out - members - and get this straight - how much money could be wasted when you consider that the membership is \$2.00 and to this we added some of the Auction funds? Don is again bringing up an old sore - and he does so only in the hopes of starting some trouble.

Let me say this - and I would ask that you confirm this with our Secretary - J. B. Lyon, 210 Waterloo Ave., Guelph, Ont. Canada --

if you wish. Ask him who carried the money matters of CHS for a period of over six months without getting any returns until after that time? Ask him how many postage accounts I have ever rendered to him for payment? Just ask him these questions, and get the answers. I would not answer them myself. And again - ask him at the same time - how much money was turned over to us here in Guelph, when we took over the issuing of the Bandwagon three and a half years ago - at a time when issues were coming from Don so spasmodically - that members by the dozens complained to me about it, and since issuing the paper regularly from here - not one complaint has been received --- except from Don Smith of course, who disagreed with this present administration in almost everything - and particularly when he did not do things - and I had to take over and make appointments etc., --- and then he did the complaining to me.

The Museum fund is now in healthy condition, also the treasury - so don't worry about that. More details in my letter at close of the year. There is only one person who Don might besmirch by this remark about the accounting of funds and that is our worthy Treasurer Walter Pietschmann, against whom nothing of such a nature could be said. So again - Don is evidently digging at me.

As for the rough draft of the Constitution, I told Don and I said to the members in the news letter of recent date, that this was one thing we did not do - but nobody is complaining about it -- seemingly - except Don. He - who has done so little, can always find fault with those who do 'much'.

As for any demand of the members to vote "my way" that is all bunk and you know it. Each and every member is at liberty to nominate and vote for whom he pleased. We will never see the votes or ballots in Guelph - so don't worry about any friendships being lost. However, I give you members all the credit in the world for knowing that CHS is a Democratic organization and from the dozens of letters received commending me on my selection of the "recommended" members. I have every belief that they will be elected.

Don now brings forth a "slate" for you to vote for. Why were these not brought forward earlier - and an above board effort made to put them into office, instead of bringing them in on the eve of an election? Again - this must be Don's method of doing things.

I sincerely trust that his recommendations, where they differed from those of my own - did not serve to change your vote. I have the sincere hope that you still voted as you wished, but if Don had seen the final nomination list as I have - he would hang his head in shame for bringing on a slate as he has done at the last moment.

Finally my friends and members all - and this is sincere in every respect - do you feel that Don acted fairly and squarely with CHS and the present administration when he got out this RAT-SHEET at the last moment? Certainly not - your best judgment would tell you that.

This is the first unpleasant letter to ever be enclosed in any of our mailing - and thank goodness it will be the last from me. Don's letter has not upset me in the least - for as I said I expected such in some form or another during the campaign just closing. I regret it is necessary to bother you with this letter at this, what should be -- Happy time of the year, but feel sure that you will appreciate it in the light in which I write it.

Don does not besmirch my name in any way with his letter - but he does hurt CHS and after all that is what we are all interested in. Personal matters to me mean nothing, but CHS MEANS A LOT. Write me and tell me what your reaction to Don's letter was and I shall be so guided in writing my final News Letter.

Anyone who would write a letter as Don did - and at this time, can only hurt one person, e.g. HIMSELF. CHS is too well grounded now to let it be shaken by such foolishness. Thank you.

Sincerely, Walter W. Tyson,
President, CHS.